

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) ~~The direct current relay according to claim 1, wherein~~
A direct current relay comprising:
a plurality of contact pairs, and a plurality of magnets (5), wherein
each of said plurality of contact pairs includes contacts (21, 22, 23, 31) having contact
regions (21a, 22a, 23a, 31a), said contacts configured to allow opening and closure with respect
to each other,
said plurality of contact pairs are arranged such that said plurality of magnets (5) are
aligned on one straight line, and said contact pair is located between said magnets (5) on a line
identical to said straight line,
each of said plurality of magnets (5) is provided so as to distort an arc generated between
said contacts (21, 22, 23, 31) on an occasion of relay cutoff in a direction crossing said straight
line,
a contact area of said contact region (21a, 22a, 23a, 31a) has a shape such that a length of
the contact area in a direction of said straight line is shorter than a length in a direction
orthogonal to said straight line.
3. (Currently Amended) The direct current relay according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, wherein said
contact pairs are arranged respectively so that they can be connected in series.
4. (Original) The direct current relay according to claim 3, wherein said contact includes
an input contact (21), an output contact (22), at least one intermediate contact (23) disposed
between said input contact (21) and said output contact (22), and having two contact regions
(23a), and a plurality of linking contacts (31) connecting in series said input contact (21), said

intermediate contact (23) and said output contact (22) sequentially in a conducting state, said input contact (21), said output contact (22) and said intermediate contact (23) being disposed at one side of a switching direction of said contact, and said linking contact being disposed at the other side of the switching direction of said contact.

5. (Currently Amended) The direct current relay according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein said contact pairs are arranged respectively so that they can be connected in parallel.

6. (Currently Amended) The direct current relay according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein said contact region (21a, 22a, 23a, 31a) is formed of Ag alloy of a chemical composition including 1-9 mass % of Sn and 1-9 mass % of In, said contact region including a first layer at a surface region and a second layer at an inner region, said first layer having a micro Vickers hardness of at least 190, and said second layer having a micro Vickers hardness of not more than 130, and said first layer has a thickness in a range of 10-360 μm .